the RARS Exciter

Raleigh Amateur Radio Society

RARS

Worldwide Friendship

September 2004 Number 401

Cary Hamfest was held on July 17, 2004. A new parking deck was built since last year which gave the Swapfest a cooler place to sell items. The main building had good attendance.

Photos by Bernard W4BRB & Denyse K4DAW

The Exciter

The ***Exciter*** is the monthly newsletter of the Raleigh Amateur Radio Society. It is available in both printed and electronic form. The printed version is mailed to members just before each club meeting. The electronic form, in Adobe Acrobat PDF format, is e-mailed about a week earlier.

We solicit both articles and advertising. The deadline for submissions is the day after the monthly meeting. Contact the Editor.

The views contained in the Exciter are those of the individual authors and are not necessarily the views of the Editor or the Raleigh Amateur Radio Society.

The Raleigh Amateur Radio Society

The Raleigh Amateur Radio Society, Inc. (RARS) was founded in 1969 and continues to serve and support the Amateur Radio community in the greater Triangle area. In 1999, we incorporated a new RARS, and obtained 501(c)(3) Non-Profit tax status.

The objectives of the club are to promote worldwide friendship through Amateur Radio; to be of public service by providing radio communications in times of disaster, emergency, or civic need; to educate members in radio technique; and to provide training classes to assist in obtaining Amateur Radio licenses.

Anyone interested in Amateur Radio is eligible to apply for membership. Dues for regular licensed amateurs are $18.00 per year (from July 1 through June 30). Additional immediate family members pay $5.00 each per year. Dues for licensed amateurs older than 59 or younger than 16 are $12.00 per year. Dues for non-licensed Associate members are $9.00 per year.

Applications for membership may be obtained from the treasurer or the RARS web site (www.rars.org).

EXCITER EDITOR: **Denyse Walter**
K4DAW
919-468-5358
k4daw@nc.rr.com

SPECIAL SERVICE CLUB

OFFICERS

PRESIDENT:	**Andy Peterson NI4S** **919-845-6251** ni4s@arrl.net
VICE-PRESIDENT	**Dick Bitner W8HYD** **919-872-6802** ncsol@bellsouth.net
SECRETARY:	**Virginia Enzor KG4PFA** **919-469-8555** kg4pfa@aol.com
TREASURER:	**Greg Seamster KE4PAX** **919-859-0029** ke4pax@arrl.net

RARS Repeaters in Raleigh:
145.13 (82.5 PL)
146.64
224.64 (Temporarily off the air)
444.525 (82.5 PL)

WEB SITE www.rars.org

PRESIDENT'S COMMENTS

Preparations. Some of you, like me, may have been surprised at Alex's flirt with the coastline. I knew there was a storm brewing out there, but hadn't paid terribly close attention until he was fairly close in. I didn't feel terribly ready for the first close encounter of the season.

Here at the NI4S shack, we've been concentrating more on our preparations for the yet-to-be-named "hurricane" that's projected to arrive at our house in mid-September.

Though it may not always be in the kind of shape I want, I like having my shack prepared so that I can pick up enough gear on short notice to deploy it in the field. Even small details like outfitting Power-Pole connectors or standardizing coax connectors help greatly.

Conversely, I love the "spontaneous" nature of the hobby. Picking up the mic and checking into a net; firing up the HF rig to see what kind of DX is floating around; seeing who some of the new voices on the repeater are. So go ahead and prepare your shack so it's flexible for whatever's needed -- but make sure and enjoy it too!

The Exciter goes to the printer the first Monday after the general meeting. Electronic mailing is the same week. Printing and mailing may vary.

The RARS 145.13 Repeater is waiting for YOU! PL 82.5 Tone

RALEIGH AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY MEETINGS

Date: ***Every first Tuesday of the Month***
Location: ***Forest Hills Baptist Church, at Dixie Trail and Clark Avenue, in Raleigh***
Time: ***7:30pm. Folks start showing up a bit before 7 to chat, brag and eat donuts.***

VE Testing: The RARS VEs will accept walk-in testing at the February, May, August and November RARS meetings, at the RARSfest in April, the Cary Swapfest in July and the JARSfest in November, and following RARS license classes. Please bring a photo ID and the original copy of your current license, plus any CSCEs you have for credit. Please refer to www.rars.org for more information.

Announcements

NEXT RARS MEETINGS:
SEPTEMBER 3, 2004
DXpedition & Tornados/Hurricanes
Due to uncontrolled circumstances the August program will be in September

Progress Energy announced in an internal company memo on August 4th that they have decided *NOT* to roll out a full-scale BPL operation at this time.

Public Service Event:
September 11-12 MS150 in New Bern, NC. Plan on the event now to get a room in the area before it's too late. We need several ham operators for this event. Contact Bob K1RCB at 919-848-7761

DID YOU KNOW……

There is a dinner once a month, known as the RARS Dinner, where hams and non-hams get together to eat, socialize and become better acquainted.

Are you looking for a ham-related activity that your spouse, date, or family can participate in, even if they don't want to be an amateur radio operator? This is it. Do you want to meet interesting, likeable people in a nice environment? This is for you.

Come join us on the 4th Tuesday of each month. We are currently meeting in the private dining room at the Golden Corral, 6129 Glenwood Avenue. People start arriving around 6:30 P.M., and things usually wind down by 8 P.M. or so. You can come whenever it's convenient for you. This gathering is open to anyone, RARS and non-RARS members, adults and children alike. Hope to see you there.

RARS MEMBERSHIP DUES

Membership renewals and new membership dues can be paid at RARS meetings, on-line at the RARS website, or mailed to the RARS treasurer. Mail To:

Greg Seamster RARS Treasurer
1405 Leanne Court
Raleigh, NC 27606

RARS now accepts credit card payments online for new members and membership renewals. See the RARS website (www.rars.org) for more information. You can join or renew for 1, 2, or 3 years.

GENERAL MEETING
August 3, 2004

Vice President Dick Bitner, W8HYD, called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m.
The following visitors were recognized and welcomed: Rex Noel, KI4GNA; Charles Swindell, WB4DCM; and Dennis Keith, N4DKK.

Treasurer's Report
Greg Seamster, KE4PAX, reported that there were 205 members as of June 30, 2004. The September Exciter will be the last issue received by those who do not renew their membership.

Annoucements
•Public Service Chairman Bob Breyer, K1RCB, made two announcements. The MS 150, a bike event benefiting multiple sclerosis, will be held September 11-12 in New Bern, NC. The Autism Ribbon Run will be held October 9 in Raleigh, NC. Volunteers are needed for both events.
•Awards Chairman Jeff Wittich, AC4ZO, presented the 64 on 64 Award to Virginia Enzor, KG4PFA.

Jeff AC4ZO presents the 64 on 64 certificate. Contacts were all on the 146.64 RARS repeater.

Program
•To encourage members to become better acquainted, Vice President Dick Bitner, W8HYD, asked several members to introduce themselves and share their radio interests. Those sharing included Chuck Littlewood, K4HF; Mary Jo Littlewood, K4MJL; Selene Montgomery, KG4RMT; Ashby Spratley, W5PGX; and John Miles, KG4SWI. Members were asked to provide feedback as to whether this was helpful and enjoyable.
•Vice President Dick Bitner, W8HYD, then introduced Gary Pearce, KN4AQ, who provided a timely update on BPL in the trial area near Raleigh as well as the FCC's response to comments by Tom Brown, N4TAB.
Door prizes were won by WB4SMC, W2YBN, and AC4ZO.
The meeting was adjourned at 9:40 p.m. Respectfully submitted, Virginia Enzor, KG4PFA, Secretary

Jim KI4BZB receives his extra license at the RARS meeting.

Target Your Market

Our Complete Line of Direct Mail and Printing Services Include:

- Custom Design & Layout
- Professional Printing
- Mailing Lists Residential & Commercial
- Mailing Labels
- Ink Jet Addressing
- Sorting - Folding
- Inserting - Metering
- Hand Signatures
- *Personal Service*

One-Stop Shopping Convenience

HPM
HIGH PERFORMANCE MARKETING
"For All Your Direct Mail & Printing Needs"
919-870-9915

J. Jay Langley
PO Box 97744
Raleigh, NC 27624
fax: 919-844-0871
PostcardS@bellsouth.net

CONGRATULATIONS

Amateur Radio testing was given at the Cary Hamfest. Two were found for pictures. Left is Virginia KG4PFA who aced the extra test. Barbara KI4GMU to the right passed her Technician.

Larry N4LEW and Gary KQ2P

Mark WD4KSE with son Sam KI4FUD talking with other buyers

Wayne WD4SLQ what to buy?

Photos by Denyse K4DAW

Selene KG4RMT hands over merchandise to Mark K4MQU as other buyers look on

My 66 Years of Ham Radio
By Alex Regi W4FSO

Way back in 1936 while a sophomore at Hillside High school, NJ, I got interested in ham radio and joined their radio club. I made many new friends and enjoyed the hobby. Along came WWII and I joined the army at the end of my senior year. Early in my enlistment I attended Capital Radio Engineering Institute under the Army specialist training program. I served in the ETO in Field Artillery Communications as a First Sergeant. My service time was five years-3 months. I turned down a battle field commission so that I could return to the US to be with my wife and one year old son. I received a Bronze Star Medal 35 years later.

After WWII, I did a lot of work on converting military gear into ham gear (SCR-522 and other types). I held the call sign K2UYQ and lived in Springfield, NJ. During this period of time, I built almost all of my ham equipment, which included transmitters, converters, power supplies and what not. I worked for ITT at Nutley, NJ as a senior Engineer

In September 1958, I was asked to help open up a new plant on Raleigh, NC Wake Forest Road. By moving to the fourth district I had to request a new call sign and received W4FSO. Again, I had to renew my ham activities. I set-up my shack on Six Forks road at Anderson Drive. My main activity was 144 MHz with a home brew 120 watt AM/CW transmitter and two stacked 14 element yagis. There were only two other stations active, Jim Peacock, W4LWU in Goldsboro and other in Rocky Mount. We had lots of longwinded QSO's without interference. I also tried meteor scatter many times with a station in Florida. Rarely did we make it.

I relocated to Windsor Place in 1960, where I currently live. I also setup activities at Emerald Isle, NC. At both locations I have systems working on all bands 50 through 1296 MHz.
Equipment line up is on page 8 :

I have achieved VUCC certification for 50, 144, 222, MHz. I need only one more contact on 903 and 1296 MHz to receive certification on these bands. All VUCC credits were made from my Emerald Isle location (see picture below). I do not count Raleigh contacts towards VUCC. My mode of operation has been either SSB or CW.

I am a contester and over the years I have been awarded many certificates. The certificate for which I am most proud of is shown below. Most all contest activity is from the Emerald Isle location.

Well, I'm eighty-one years of age now so I think I'll be retiring from ham radio soon. I intend to set up a booth at the RARS fest in 2005 to dispose of my collections over the years. (I missed the 2004 fest). Amateur radio has been wonderful to me throughout the years. I hope all of the newcomers and oldies experience the same. It's a great hobby. (*Continued on page 8)*

LOOKing Back 30 Years

Taken from the August 1974 Exciter

On August 7, 1974, history was made at the Raleigh Amateur Radio Society when 3 new members joined the club to make it 100 members.

LOOKing Back 10 Years

Taken from the August 1994 Exciter

The five year plan is put into place for RARS. Lightning damaged 146.64/444.525 antenna. It was repaired with another Diamond antenna that was supposed to be installed in Apex. DXClay 145.09 and CLAY 445.15 packet nodes were hit by lightening as a severe thunderstorm passed through Clayton. Traffic is being rerouted via Rocky Mount KO4PE to the East.

The summer VHF opening between Hawaii and California had produced a new 2304 MHz world distance record. On July 11, 1994 UTC Chip Angle , N6CA, and Paul Lieb, KH6HME, made a two-way CW contact on the band.
Members 418.

146.88 145.39, 147.105, & 147.135 Repeaters are supported by PCRN if you would like to donate please make checks to:

PCRN
PO Box 12734
Raleigh, NC 27605

More info on PCRN: www.pcrn.net

NET REPORTS FOR JULY 2004

8:00PM DAILY: RARS Evening Net

Participants 471
Traffic 38/31
Time 737 minutes
Sessions 31

8:30PM SAT: Tech & Traders Net
9:00PM MON: SWL/SIG

Participants 56
Traffic 0/0
Time 404 Minutes
Sessions 9

RARS NEW MEMBERS

August 2004

We would like to welcome our new members to RARS. Thank you for considering us for your amateur radio club.

Rod	KI4DCN
Robert	KG4VKQ
Larry	KI4FTL
Wayne	K6TWX
Charles	WB4DCM

The Feathered Guest and Amateur Radio

As some of you may have heard on a recent 8pm net, my wife found an unusual bird in our backyard. We made an after hours call to our local animal control office and made a quick tour of our neighborhood but had no luck in finding the bird's lost owner. What were we to do with such an unusual visitor? How could we make him comfortable for an overnight stay until further calls and investigations could take place? The answer was simple...put out a call on the repeater for Randy 'the Bird Man of 64' KE4PNT. For years I've heard Randy talking about his birds during his ragchews on our evening net. Fortunately, he was listening and answered my call for help. Randy provided us with some good tips for making our feathered guest comfortable for the evening. Gary, KN4AQ and Cindy, KD4ACW, also provided us with some ideas on locating some late evening bird chow. Thanks to all the advice given, we were able to feed, water and provide a good perching environment for a bird we had now named Elroy. The little guy nibbled on his food then tucked his head back on his wing and called it a night.

The next morning I was happy to see Elroy doing well in his modified milk crate home. With a few more snacks and some fresh water, he was set for the day. Later in the morning, I placed another call to the Cary animal control office and was pleased to hear they had a report of a lost parrot. We compared descriptions and it sounded like Elroy was going to be headed home. The animal control officer stopped by my house later in the day to pick him up and reunite him with his keeper. I was surprised that the little guy had flown all the way from Apex (I live near the Cary Town Center mall) and that lost parrots are not all that uncommon. This is probably the first one helped by amateur radio.

You never know when or how amateur radio may bail you out. Elroy and I were sure glad to be on the receiving end of our hobby's friendly, helpful and multi-talented members.

Thanks again to all and 73,
Dick KD4ISC

(Continued from page 6 My 66 Years)

Equipment line up is as follows:

50 MHZ

	Raleigh	Emerald Isle
Tx/Rx	FT-620B	IC-551A
RF Ampl	H/B 75W	TE-0510G
Ant.	H/B 3 El. Yagi	5 El. Yagi

144 MHZ

	Raleigh	Emerald Isle
Tx/Rx	TR-751-A Rig Blaster	IC-251-A
RF Ampl	TE-1410G 160W	RFC-2-117 160W
Ant.	19 El Yagi	18 El. Yagi

222 MHZ

	Raleigh	Emerald Isle
Tx/Rx	ST-222/28-HTX-100	DEM-222/HTX-100
RF Ampl	AM6155-Mod	Lunar 140W
Ant.	H/B 16 El. Yagi	16 El. Yagi

432 MHZ

	Raleigh	Emerald Isle
Tx/Rx	IC-471-H	IC-471-A
RF Ampl	IC-471-H 80W	RFC-4-110-100 W
Ant.	24 El. Yagi	24 El. Yagi

903

Emerald Island

Tx/Rx	TR-9000
RF Ampl	H/B 80 W 2c39
Ant.	9 El. M2

1296 MHZ

	Raleigh	Emerald Isle
Tx/Rx	SKF-1240-TR-9000 TR-50	LT-23S-TR-9000
RF Ampl.	H/B M5776 12W	H/B 12 W HI Spec 23D200 (not in use)
Ant.	16 El. Yagi H/B	33 El

Minutes of the RARS Board Meeting
June 15, 2004

The RARS board meeting was held at the Forest Hills Baptist Church on Tuesday, June 15, 2004. Members present were W8HYD, KG4PFA, KG4OQA, K4HF, K4MJL, WA9SZL, K4HM, KG4RMT, KN4AQ, NI4S, KE4PAX, K4DAW, KG4FIJ, and W4BRB.

President Andy Peterson, NI4S, called the meeting to order at 7:34 p.m.

The minutes from the May board meeting were presented, amended and approved.

Officers' Reports
Treasurer's Report (KE4PAX): There are currently 276 members.

Vice President's Report (W8HYD): Classes will start in August for Technician and General Class licenses pending sufficient demand.

Committee Reports

FM committee (KA2FWC): No report

Exciter (K4DAW): A reporter will be needed for the Exciter during the next few months.

Net Manager (KG4OQA): Substitute net controls are needed. We should promote the 64 on 64 Award on the net.

Web Master (W4NOT): No report

Membership (K4DAW):
*Denyse Walter, K4DAW, needs assistance with the introduction of visitors at the general meeting.
*Greg Seamster, KE4PAX, reported that he has mailed membership renewal notices.

Hamfest (K4HM): Hank Montgomery reported that he has received a notice from the NC State Fairgrounds that rent for the Jim Graham building will increase in 2005. Ways to offset the increase in rent were discussed.

Field Day (N4HAF): In absence of N4HAF, Andy Peterson, NI4S, reported that RARS would be a 5-Alpha designation for Field Day.

Public Information (KN4AQ): Press releases were sent out for Field Day and the Hurricane Preparedness Fair. The article on amateur radio and BPL has not yet appeared in The News and Observer.

Education (K4RLC): In absence of K4RLC, Andy Peterson, NI4S, reported that preparations are on track for Kids' Day and the Hurricane Fair. Set up will be at 7:00 a.m.

VE Team (WA4GIR & KO4CK): No report

Public Service (K1RCB): In absence of K1RCB, Andy Peterson, NI4S, announced that the MS 150 event will be held September 11 & 12. There is a need for Rest Stop Captains.

ARRL Liaison (K4HF): No report

Nominating Committee (K4HF): No report

W4DW/W4RNC Trustee (AC4ZO): No report

At-Large Directors (WA9SZL, KG4FIJ & KG4RMT)
*John Mayfield, WA9SZL, asked about a club picnic in the fall. Dick Bitner, W8HYD, will investigate whether the club's non-profit status will permit social events.
*Jim Walter, KG4FIJ, asked about the status of Helping Hams.
*Selene Montgomery, KG4RMT, suggested that time be given at general meetings occasionally for members and visitors to introduce themselves. Name tags were discussed. She further suggested that members be encouraged to sit closer to the speaker to facilitate hearing discussions.

Special or Ad Hoc Committees: Greg Seamster, KE4PAX, noted that a financial review was held with K4HM and WA4LHE on June 14.

Unfinished Business:
*Treasurer Greg Seamster, KE4PAX, presented the revised budget for fiscal year 2004-2005. On motion by W8HYD and seconded by KG4FIJ, the budget was approved by the board. It will be presented to the general membership in July for approval.
*Ways to improve the timely delivery of the Exciter were discussed.

New Business:
*Denyse Walter, K4DAW, reported that Greg Fishel, chief meteorologist at WRAL, will present a program on hurricanes at the July meeting and that pizza will be served.
*Denyse Walter, K4DAW, announced the start up of a Youth Net on Wednesday mornings for the duration of the summer. Sam Freeze, KI4FUD, will serve as net control on the start date, June 23.

On motion by W8HYD and seconded by KE4PAX, the meeting was adjourned at 9:18 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, Virginia Enzor, KG4PFA, Secretary

HAMFEST CALENDAR

September 4-5	Shelby, NC
September 18-19	Virginia Bch, VA
October 10*	Maysville, NC
October 23	Sumpter, SC
October 30	Myrtle Beach, SC
November 13	Gastonia, NC
November 21	**Benson, NC- JARSFEST**
February 5, 2005	Charleston ARS, SC
March 12-13	Charlotte, NC
April 17th	**RALEIGH, NC**
May 21*	Williamston, NC
May 28*	**Durham, NC**

Courtesy of the SERA Repeater Journal
*** Date is not confirmed**

The Central Carolina Skywarn Net Meets Tuesdays at 9:15 PM on 146.88 Repeater

Remember to give damage reports AFTER the storms as well as DURING the storms. Website: www.ccskywarn.net

SKYWARN DINNER

The Skywarn dinner is August 29, 2004 at Golden Corral on Glenwood Avenue at 6:30. Please join us for discussions on weather and the upcoming hurricane season. Jeff Orrock will up date us on what is required at the NWS during a hurricane.

Charles KI4DCR & Mike KC4WUH on highway 12 during hurricane Alex on August 3, 2004

Photos by Charles KI4DCR

Severe weather: NWS is asking us to give reports when there's damaging winds, flooding where it doesn't normally occur, and any rotation or funnel clouds during the summer storms. Someone from Skywarn is usually listening on 146.88.

STORM WEBSITES

Http://iwin.nws.noaa.gov/iwin/nc/thunderstorm.html

www.wral.com/wxmap/886675/detail.html

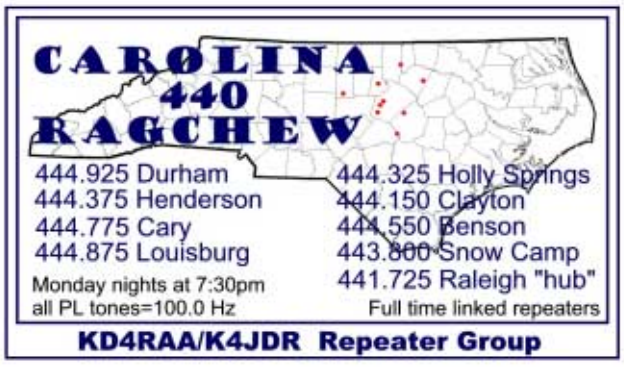
www.stormstudy.com

www.qsl.net/wx4mmm/

www.rars.org/radarwatcher/

www.voipwx.net (new hurricane website)

IRLP Skywarn Worldwide is on the 440 link system on Saturday night 8:00 pm. See lists of repeaters on the Carolina 440 Ragchew ad below or www.caryncrepeater.com for more information.



WEATHER MERCHANDISE
www.anythingweather.com

TEARA Meetings
Date: 4th Tuesday of each month
Place: The Meeting Place restaurant in Wendell
Time: 6:00P.M. for Dinner & 6:30P.M. for meeting
Sam Johnson NC4SJ

The RARS
September 2004
Exciter
Raleigh Amateur Radio Society, Inc
PO Box 17124
Raleigh, North Carolina 27619

NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION
US POSTAGE PAID
RALEIGH, NC
PERMIT NO. 2130

New Location for Cary Swapfest

Photo by Bernard W4BRB

The new parking garage provided a cool and a spacious place for tailgate sales at the Cary hamfest